



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

OEIG Finds Violations in Parole Drug Testing Procedures



The OEIG investigated whether parole agents of the Department of Corrections (IDOC) were following proper policy and procedures for drug testing parolees. The OEIG found violations of policies for testing of female parolees by male parole agents.

IDOC parole directives require a “pat” search prior to administering a drug test, and require that the drug testing cup remain in view of the tester at all times. For these reasons, IDOC parole directives also require that parole agents conducting drug tests be of the same gender as the parolee being tested.

As discussed in OEIG report, *In re: Scott Harrold (Case No. 12-02223)*, available on the OEIG website, former Parole Agent Scott Harrold confessed to IDOC that he engaged in sexual conduct with a female parolee during the administration of a drug test. Parole Agent Harold resigned prior to any discipline imposed by IDOC. The OEIG’s investigation revealed that other male parole agents conducted drug tests, including one that conducted dozens of drug tests, of female parolees without the assistance of a female parole agent.

The OEIG recommended that IDOC place a copy of the report in Scott Harrold’s personnel file and retrain parole agents, implement new policies, and conduct a full audit, regarding the administration of parolee drug tests. IDOC agreed to the OEIG recommendations, and agreed to notify commanders should a parole agent conduct a drug test of a parolee of the opposite gender.

Key Figure in OEIG Investigation Pleads Guilty

Former state grantee George E. Smith pleaded guilty in federal court to charges brought by the US Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

Smith admitted to inducing state agencies to issue separate but nearly identical grants, and to converting duplicate funding to his own use. Additional civil charges, filed in state court by the Attorney General and aimed at recovering funds, are pending.

Smith, featured in *In re: McEwen, et al. (Case # 10-01182)*, a joint investigation conducted by the OEIG and the Department of Children and Family Services Inspector General, is available on the OEIG website: http://www.illinois.gov/oeig/investigations/Documents/10-01182_McEwen_et%20al.pdf.

Ethics Officers Meet in Springfield

Over 130 ethics professionals, including Executive Inspectors General, ethics officers, general counsels and others, gathered at the University of Illinois at Springfield on April 5, 2016, for the Executive Ethics Commission’s annual conference.

Panel discussions addressed state hiring, procurement, and Gift Ban issues. Attendees were offered CLE and CPE credit, as appropriate. Gov. Bruce Rauner briefly addressed the crowd.

Handouts are available at <http://www.illinois.gov/eec/Pages/EthicsConference16.aspx>.